technologists under the scheme of Scientists' Pool. A provision has also been made for the creation of super-numerary posts.

—New scientific departments/ organisations such as Departments of Bio-technology, Ocean Development, Environment, Non Conventional Energy Sources, Centre for Development of Telematics have been set up and some of these are in high technology areas. These are likely to provide exciting job opportunities for the scientists, technologists and doctors.

—The financial allocation for science and technology activities have been increased substantially over the successive Five Year Plans.

—Delegation of enhanced administrative and financial powers have been made to scientific institutions to improve the organisational efficiency and working conditions of scientists.

Issuing of licences for opening of branches of banks in tribal areas

1068. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that priority is accorded to the remote tribal areas, while issuing licences for opening of new branches of banks by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, how many such branches have been licensed to be opened in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and north eastern States and if not, what are the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether any assessment has been made of the financial resource need of these tribal areas and how are they intended to be covered by the branches of commercial banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, Hilly and Tribal areas are given special consideration and expansion in such areas are allowed on a comparatively liberal basis by relaxing the norms prescribed in the Policy for giving licences against identified centres in such areas.

(b) Under the current Policy RBI has issued 172, 129 and 17 licences for opening branches in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar respectively. RBI has also issued 5, 18, 24 and 34 licences for opening branches in tribal areas of North Eastern States viz. Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura respectively.

(c) No specific study has been undertaken to assess the financial resources need of the tribal areas. The objective of the current Branch Licensing Policy is to spread banking facilities to the deficit rural areas specially where identifiable spatial gaps exist.

Bank robberies

1069. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of robberies in banks in certain parts of the country are on the increase; and

(b) if so, what preventive, precautionary and remedial measures do Government propose to undertake to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bank robberies/dacoities, to a considerable extent, depend on the general security enviornment in the locality. Banks, however, have been taking steps to improve their security arrangements so as to offer as little inducement to miscreants to rob banks and also to deter them. As this is a